

JACK DOYLE MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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MONROE COUNTY DESIGNATED 'STORM-READY'

National Weather Service Applauds County's EOC

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle, acting on behalf of the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the myriad of public and private agencies that comprise the EOC team, today accepted the National Weather Service's (NWS) designation as a StormReady community. The designation recognizes the community's emergency preparedness to handle severe weather threats from tornadoes, floods, thunderstorms, blizzards and other weather challenges from Mother Nature. Monroe County is one of only a few counties in New York State to be declared StormReady.

"I am pleased to accept this designation on behalf of all of the emergency service departments, agencies and responders throughout the County, the City and 19 Towns within Monroe County," said Doyle. "It is their professionalism and commitment that has forged an effective community wide partnership that keeps our residents better informed and safer during times of emergency. By teaching people how to react intelligently to weather alerts, we are preparing the public to survive serious weather conditions. Today, I salute the individuals – the hundreds of workers and volunteers - that helped make us a StormReady community", said Doyle.

Last October, as a quality in government initiative, Monroe County joined with the City of Rochester and the American Red Cross in announcing that it was seeking the coveted StormReady designation. The program is a voluntary program, and is offered by the National Weather Service as a means of providing guidance and incentive to officials interested in improving their respective hazardous weather preparations.

During ceremonies celebrating the designation, two StormReady road signs were symbolically presented to Doyle by Guy Tucker, Meteorologist-in-Charge of the NWS in Buffalo.

"The StormReady recognition is given to those communities that have met our agency's guidelines in emergency planning, communications, hydrometeorological monitoring, and community hazardous weather preparedness," said Tucker. "I'm happy to say that several representatives of Monroe County government have worked in partnership with the NWS, community organizations and private sector to not only meet, but in many cases to exceed, those guidelines."

"Monroe County has proven it has the skills necessary to survive serious emergency weather threats," said Stan Levine, Warning Coordination Meteorologist with the NWS. "This is especially important since Monroe County has such a frequent history of weather emergencies."

"We have stated, repeatedly, that we can't prevent severe weather, but we can be prepared so that our friends and family are safe," said Doyle. "Today's designation emphasizes the successful effort in emergency planning and preparedness that has been undertaken by all of our community's emergency responders."

The County and City issued a joint proclamation proclaiming the week of April 15 – 21, 2001 to be StormReady Week in the County of Monroe and the City of Rochester and urged the community to support on-going initiatives.

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